

Hand of CIA Revealed In Laos Rightists Coup

MOSCOW — The recent military coup d'etat in Laos was planned by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, says Wilfred Burchett, author of *The Furtive War*.

Burchett gives his analysis in the "Literary Gazette."

The coup had a double purpose, Burchett explains, to destroy neutralism in Laos and to discredit the idea of neutralism through southeast Asia.

"I first heard about the would-be coup," writes Burchett, "in early Nov., 1963, when I was collecting facts about Ngo Dinh Diem's collapse in South Vietnam."

Burchett learned then that the CIA had become dissatisfied with the pro-American commander in Laos, Gen. Phoumi Nosovan, the right wing general, who was of-

ficially in charge of the Laos troops. In November, the CIA "began to threaten Phoumi Nosovan — with a coup d'etat a la Saigon if he did not take resolute measures against the Lao-tian neutralists."

"In the eyes of the CIA, Nosovan had become as useless as the brothers Ngo in Saigon. His repeated attacks on the progressive Pathet Lao forces always failed."

"The coup followed a move by Nosovan to negotiate with the forces that he was unable to defeat. He met with Prince Souvannaphoung, commander of the Pathet Lao forces, and Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma of Laos."

"Several days later the commander of the garrison in Vientiane mutinied. Hundreds of neutralists were arrested."

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